

### **Discussion: Picking Days for 2017-2018 Season**

B. Preney opened the floor for discussion on the potential picking your own days for the upcoming 2017-18 season.

There was general consensus for both zones on not giving up any additional fishing days; to maintain 15 and 38 harvestable days for Zone 1 and Zone 2, respectively. The potential reduction of 8 fishing days in Zone 2 would affect approximately 24 fishermen and the resulting loss of income from such a reduction was considerable. In most cases, even in bad weather situations, there are areas that can be accessed, if only for a few totes.

So, with the understanding that only a small portion of the licensed harvesters do utilize all available harvesting days, what would the harm be in allowing fishermen to pick their own day, based on a 3 open days/week? With the addition of swipe cards to report landings in the fishery, in-season monitoring would capture any great deviation in landings. And, the bonus of completing a season using all available days along with the option to pick the day you harvest would allow for complete data-gathering to determine if this was a viable option for future seasons.

**Motion** by J. Leask: *to allow for a 38 day season for Zone 2 divers and draggers using a 45 day calendar, 3 days a week.*

2<sup>nd</sup> by: J. Dray

Vote: 8 yes, 2 abstain. **MOTION PASSED.**

**Motion** by B. Preney: *to allow for a 15 day LATE season for Zone 1 divers using a 20 day calendar, 3 days a week.*

2<sup>nd</sup> by: J. Leask

Vote: 10 yes, 1 abstain. **MOTION PASSED.**

**Motion** by C. Richardson: *to allow for a 15 day EARLY season for Zone 1 divers using a 20 day calendar, 3 days a week.*

2<sup>nd</sup> by: B. Preney

Vote: 10 yes, 1 abstain. **MOTION PASSED.**

**Motion** by Alan Knowlton: *to allow for a 15 day season for Zone 1 draggers using a 20 day calendar, 3 days a week.*

2<sup>nd</sup> by: C. Doeur

Vote: 10 yes, 1 abstain. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **Other Business**

T. Cheney suggested a meeting with the processors and buyers to be held separately in February to develop a draft calendar that would be used as a scratch calendar during the full council meeting in March. Everyone was in agreement and T. Cheney will proceed in scheduling this meeting in Portland.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Jeff's Catering in Brewer, meeting start time TBD.** The 2017/18 Season calendar development will be the primary discussion topic.

**Appendix A**

Proposed license fee rates:

Sea Urchin License Fees			
Zone 2 individual handfishing sea urchin license issued pursuant to §6748, subsection 1		\$ 152.00	\$ 46.00
Zone 2 handfishing sea urchin license with tender issued pursuant to §6748, subsection 1		\$ 202.00	\$ 61.00
Zone 1 individual handfishing sea urchin license issued pursuant to §6748, subsection 1		\$ 25.00	\$ 8.00
Zone 1 handfishing sea urchin license with tender issued pursuant to §6748, subsection 1		\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00
Zone 2 sea urchin dragging license issued pursuant to §6748-A, subsection 1		\$ 152.00	\$ 46.00
Zone 1 sea urchin dragging license issued pursuant to §6748-A, subsection 1		\$ 25.00	\$ 8.00
Sea urchin and scallop diving tender license issued pursuant to §6535, subsection 1		\$ 133.00	\$ 40.00

**Appendix B**

M. Hunter's update on current season metrics (landings, value, and roe content).

**Maine Sea Urchin Price per Pound in Dollars**

2014-2015 State	2015-2016 State	2016-2017 Maine Sea Urchin Price (\$/lb) by Zone, Gear, and Month*					
Sep \$2.08	Sep \$1.78	Zone 1		Zone 2		State Total	
Oct \$2.58	Oct \$2.98						
Nov \$3.01	Nov \$2.72						
Dec \$2.97	Dec \$3.04						
Jan \$2.55	Jan \$2.67						
Feb \$2.76	Feb \$3.12						
Mar \$2.79	Mar \$3.43						
Total \$2.69	Total \$2.88						
Preliminary data	Preliminary data						
		Zone 1		Zone 2		State Total	
		Drag & Dive**	Dive & Rake	Drag	Total		
		Sep \$2.09	\$3.12	\$3.12	\$3.12	\$2.38	
		Oct	\$2.77	\$3.14	\$2.95	\$2.95	
		Nov	\$3.58	\$3.68	\$3.63	\$3.63	
		Dec	\$2.28	\$3.89	\$3.91	\$3.90	\$3.63
		Jan		\$3.91	\$3.89	\$3.90	\$3.90
		Feb					
		Mar					
		Total	\$2.16	\$3.53	\$3.66	\$3.59	\$3.36

\*Preliminary data through 1/23/17

\*\* Due to Confidentiality

**Maine Sea Urchin Value in Dollars**

2014-2015 State	2015-2016 State	2016-2017 Maine Sea Urchin Value (\$) by Zone, Gear, and Month*					
Sep \$413,376	Sep \$332,053	Zone 1		Zone 2		State Total	
Oct \$984,308	Oct \$821,208						
Nov \$507,160	Nov \$650,844						
Dec \$1,951,826	Dec \$1,849,953						
Jan \$442,670	Jan \$642,555						
Feb \$273,756	Feb \$604,491						
Mar \$1,030,103	Mar \$1,009,748						
Total \$5,603,199	Total \$5,910,852						
Preliminary data	Preliminary data						
		Zone 1		Zone 2		State Total	
		Drag & Dive**	Dive & Rake	Drag	Total		
		Sep \$290,941	\$201,592	\$201,592	\$201,592	\$492,533	
		Oct	\$422,062	\$499,821	\$921,883	\$921,883	
		Nov	\$490,223	\$557,541	\$1,047,764	\$1,047,764	
		Dec	\$309,419	\$897,540	\$821,640	\$1,719,180	\$2,028,599
		Jan		\$483,994	\$316,111	\$800,105	\$800,105
		Feb					
		Mar					
		Total	\$600,360	\$2,495,411	\$2,193,607	\$4,689,018	\$5,290,884

\*Preliminary data through 1/23/17

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**Maine Sea Urchin Landings In Pounds**

2014-2015 State	2015-2016 State	2016-2017 Maine Sea Urchin Landings (lbs) by Zone, Gear, and Month*					
Sep 198,955	Sep 183,396	Zone 1		Zone 2		State Total	
Oct 374,914	Oct 274,394						
Nov 164,891	Nov 237,575						
Dec 658,335	Dec 617,972						
Jan 176,893	Jan 244,981						
Feb 99,049	Feb 194,034						
Mar 365,706	Mar 297,642						
Total 2,038,743	Total 2,049,994						
Preliminary data	Preliminary data						
		Zone 1		Zone 2		State Total	
		Drag & Dive**	Dive & Rake	Drag	Total		
		Sep 139,974	64,523	64,523	204,497		
		Oct		151,567	310,266		310,266
		Nov		134,618	151,138	285,756	285,756
		Dec	135,596	227,324	210,823	438,147	573,743
		Jan		124,330	80,475	204,805	204,805
		Feb					
		Mar					
		Total	275,570	702,362	600,717	1,303,079	1,579,067

\*Preliminary data through 1/23/17

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**Maine Sea Urchin Roe Index (%)**

2014-2015 State	2015-2016 State	2016-2017 Maine Sea Urchin Roe (%) by Zone, Gear, and Month*					
Sep 8.9	Sep 7.7	Zone 1		Zone 2		State Total	
Oct 12.0	Oct 12.2						
Nov 12.3	Nov 12.0						
Dec 12.0	Dec 11.9						
Jan 12.9	Jan 11.6						
Feb 13.2	Feb 13.6						
Mar 13.2	Mar 13.3						
Total 11.9	Total 11.8						
Preliminary data	Preliminary data						
		Zone 1		Zone 2		State Total	
		Drag & Dive**	Dive & Rake	Drag	Total		
		Sep 7.9	11.5	11.5	11.5	8.9	
		Oct	10.9	11.9	11.4	11.4	
		Nov		11.6	11.8	11.7	11.7
		Dec	9.5	12.1	11.8	11.9	11.5
		Jan		12.7	11.4	12.2	12.2
		Feb					
		Mar					
		Total	8.5	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.3

\*Preliminary data through 1/23/17

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